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THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE

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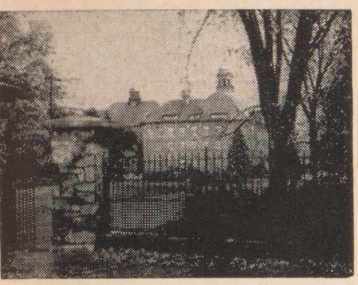

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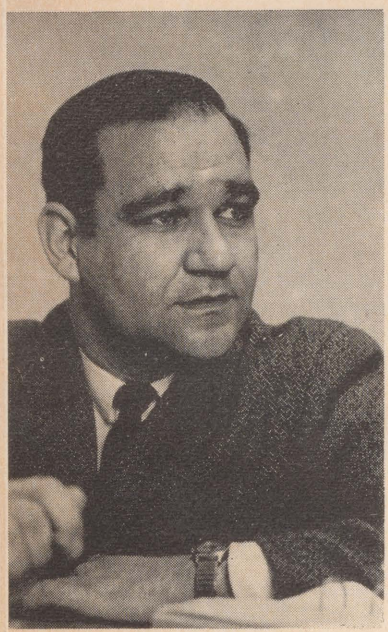

the next twelve months

The next twelve months are decisive ones for Canadian agriculture. As indicated in the Journal's main article this month, the next twelve months will mean even more tightening of the belt as the economists toss around such words and phrases as "efficiency", "maximizing returns" and "cost-price squeeze".

There are many other ideas being tossed around this spring that will have major influences on agricultural policy all across Canada. In mid-January, the Ontario Conference on Agriculture had as one result, the acceptance into everyday vocabulary use, such phrases as "supply management control", "Food Supply Agency" and "General Farm Organization".

The amazing thing about these phrases is that people accept them almost as "fait accompli", when, in fact, they are only ideas being suggested as alternatives.

A second conference, the Canadian Congress on Agriculture, is scheduled for the last week in March. Again many of the same phrases will be discussed. Again people will accept them as being policy rather than ideas and again a Minister of Agriculture will carefully scrutinize the results of the conference. He will try to see, if by some mere chance, he may be able to shed some light on solving some of the problems of Canadian agriculture.

These two conferences will set the stage for Canadian agriculture for the next twelve months and will generate the kinds of discussions that, we hope, will encourage the industrialization of agriculture without forgetting the people involved. As this industrialization goes on, the idea of co-ordinated supply management through National Marketing Boards will be discussed. Economists and politicians will continue to grope for some solution to the puzzling problems of production, transportation and marketing of farm products. Consumers and businessmen will continue to question the combine-like nature of a National Marketing Board that controls production and pricing of every egg in Canada. Such may be the next twelve months in Canadian agriculture, a period of debate and possible acceptance of far-reaching farm policy. Whatever is done, we hope that Canadian farmers will be able to lead happy productive lives — in a world market.

— The Editor

THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS . . .

THE OUTLOOK FOR CANADIAN AGRICULTURE

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General Outlook Statement

Over the post-war years the Canadian farm industry has been engaged in a tremendous struggle to find a viable place in an expanding economy and for all their struggles and efforts—involving a loss of half of the labour force and some 20 percent of the farms—the solution has not been found. The real income of the industry and most of the individual farmers in it continue to decline. About half of the farms are so small and so under-capitalized that they have no chance of producing an income which would give them a decent standard of living. This poverty sector of our agriculture might be called a peasantry in an affluent society. It can be said of farmers in general that like students in our universities and like the striking workers of our commercial and industrial establishments, they will not continue to accept what the institutions of our society, in the case of farmers the market, dictate that they must accept.

International Economic Situation and Outlook

The economic tempo in industrially advanced countries improved in 1968. In the United States, Canada and Japan the real GNP, which grew only 2.3 percent in 1967, advanced by four percent. Also, the British economic activity improved after the devaluation of the currency, but at a lower rate. In France, the events of May 1968 brought substantial wage increases and deterioration of the balance of payments position. A foreign exchange crisis exists as this is written. In the other EEC countries the economy has been expanding at an average rate of 3.5 to 4 percent in real terms. Industrial production increased in the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary and Rumania, while agricultural production affected by severe drought might fall behind the volume of the previous year. In developing countries the volume of output grew, but the lack of foreign exchange, aggravated by unfavourable price relationships for their main export crops, slowed down their economies.

A very important factor in appraising the economic prospects in Canada is the assessment of the future economic trend in the United States. Government analysts in Washington expect that recent anti-inflationary measures, including the ten percent surcharge on federal income tax, will have a depressing effect on the level of business activity. That would indicate a slower rate of growth in that country. The national income in 1969 is likely to be about $900 billion in current dollars, up 5.5 percent from 1968. Provided price increases can be held at 2.5 percent, we would expect an increase of the real national income of three percent. Yet, further wage demands and unexpected up-trend of government spending are factors which could overheat the economy and push inflation to a higher rate.

The Canadian Economy in 1969

The following discussion of short-term economic prospects is based on the assumption that further work stoppages and unexpected financial crises on the national or international scene will not materially affect the Canadian economy. The Economic Council of Canada states that Canadian growth over the next decade would continue to rely very heavily on a massive increase in the supply of labour. The country can expect significant future gains in labour productivity as a result of better-educated and better-trained people in the labour force. The persistent rapid rise in unit labour costs became less worrisome in the second half of 1968 and may be disappearing in 1969. Much depends upon whether private and public spending restrains or encourages inflationary pressures. The federal government adopted some anti-inflationary measures including a three percent surcharge on federal income tax. The Canadian dollar has been strengthened by monetary and tax measures; however, the increase of exports was the most important factor in growth.

The economic outlook for 1969 is reasonably favourable. The Federal Government intends to reduce the budget deficit indicating that spending will rise less sharply than in 1968. On the other hand, Government plans to ease the access to funds for residential construction. Changes in the Bank Act encourage this. The capital investment within the business sector, other than housing, is estimated at $10 billion in 1968 and might increase in 1969 due to higher profits. The increase in aggregate wages and salaries in the non-farm sector amounted to seven percent in 1968.

Consumer spending depends upon the actual level of employment. There is some prospect for less unemployment which suggests moderately higher consumer spending in 1969. Personal disposable income was six percent higher in 1968 than in 1967.

In summary, the key elements of economic growth improved in 1968 and are likely to continue in 1969. The Minister of finance foresees eight percent growth of the national income in 1969. He suggested that five percent will be attributed to real growth and three percent to price increase. We are inclined to predict rates of four percent in each of the two components.

The Canadian Farm Industry in 1968 and 1969

Striking structural changes have been taking place in Canadian agriculture in the past 20 years or so. The volume of production has increased by more than 50 percent. The production for 1968 will be approximately five percent above that of 1967. It seems that the same trend might be expected for 1969 provided that unusual natural conditions do not affect the harvest.

Table 1 reveals that the proportion of crops and livestock, in their contribution to cash receipts from farming operations, averaged 42 and 55 percent respectively.

The reduction of cash receipts in the crop sector is likely to offset the gains expected from higher marketings of livestock and products. That suggests that farm cash income will be, in 1969, probably the same as in 1968. The latter is estimated to reach $4.3 billion, slightly below the $4.4 billion realized in 1967.

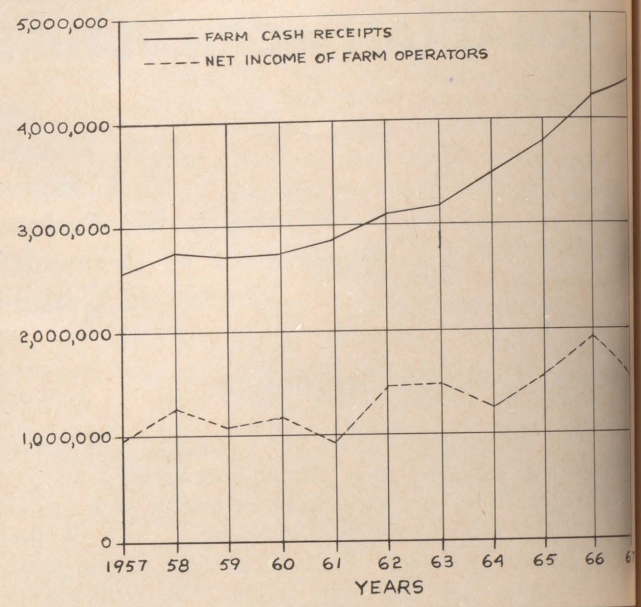
The increased value of operating expenses and depreciation charges intensified the cost-price squeeze on Canadian farms. Higher taxes on farmland reduced the pressures on upward price increases for land. The general increase of wages affected labour costs substantially. Despite a slight rise in fertilizers and pesticides farmers used 5 percent more chemicals in 1968 than in 1967. The only major item in the purchased input mix is manufactured feed which was bought at lower prices.

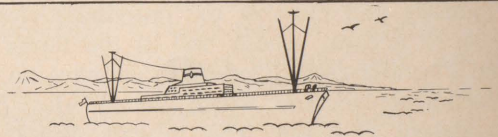
Altogether, the Canada Department of Agriculture estimates that farm-operating expenses and depreciation charges in 1968 to be about $150 million higher than in 1967. Provided that government measures might hold inflationary trends down to 2 or 3 percent, no notable changes are likely for 1969. Thus, total net income from farm operations might be sustained at the 1968 level, or slightly lower if cash receipts from crops will also decline.

Table 1. Canada. Cash Receipts from Farming Operation

	1966	1967	First 6 Months 1967	First 6 Months 1968
	(millions of dollars)			
Wheat	1,004	1,032	607	618
Barley	106	125	71	71
Potatoes, Fruits and Vegetables	235	229	51	55
Tobacco	118	157	110	94
Other field crops	307	295	107	76
Total Crops	1,769	1,838	947	914
Cattle and calves	888	922	437	475
Hogs	421	408	210	197
Dairy products	584	629	295	303
Poultry and eggs	402	373	170	163
Other Livestock	59	59	28	29
Total livestock and products	2,355	2,393	1,140	1,166
Other	156	155	62	63
Total	4,280	4,385	2,149	2,144

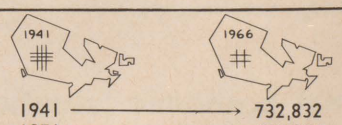
Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics





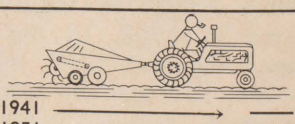
1961 — 62 → 358 MILLION BU.
1962 — 63 → 331 " "
1963 — 64 → 595 " "
1964 — 65 → 400 " "
1965 — 66 → 585 " "
1966 — 67 → 515 " "
1967 — 68 → 336 " "

CANADIAN WHEAT EXPORTS



1941 → 732,832
1951 → 623,091
1961 → 480,903
1966 → 430,522

TOTAL NUMBER OF CENSUS FARMS



1941 → —
1951 → 535,000
1961 → 437,000
1966 → —
1971 → 338,000
1981 → 243,000

NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS

Table 2 — Acreage, yield, supply, utilization and price, wheat, Canada (crop year, August 1 to July 31)

	Average 1956-57 to 1960-61	Average 1961-62 to 1965-66	1966-67 (Revised)	1967-68 (Preliminary)	1968-69 (Estimated)
Acreage (thousand acres)	23,106	27,540	29,692	30,121	29,067
Yield (Bushels per acre)	20.1	20.5	27.9	19.7	21.8
		million bushels			
Stocks at Aug. 1	629.8	491.8	420.1	576.8	667.5
Production	465.5	564.5	827.3	592.9	649.8
Imports	c	c	c		
Total Supply	1,095.3	1,056.4	1,247.5	1,169.7	1,317.3
Exports	302.0	453.7	515.3	335.6	
Domestic	157.8	148.5	155.4	166.5	
Stocks at July 31	635.6	454.2	576.8	667.5	
Farm price (dollars per bu.)	1.35	1.68	1.76		

Source: Federal-Provincial Agricultural Outlook Conference 1968, Table 3.

DAIRY

The Outlook for the Dairy Industry.

The Canadian manufacturing milk industry is now into the third year of the very comprehensive programmes administered by the Canadian Dairy Commission. These involve quotas on every producer, the use of support prices by government offer to purchase the major manufactured products, and the payment of direct subsidies to farmers producing manufactured milk. The cost of the programme is $130 million a year which looks very high when one considers that all of government expenditures, federal and provincial, on all agricultural services including education are about $500 million per year. The former Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Greene, informed farm reprentatives, provincial governments, and the Federal Task Force on Agriculture that they had to come up with constructive programmes to solve the dairy problem without the exceedingly large subsidies which are now paid. This is a fair challenge.

The aggregate of the quotas is nearly ten billion pounds per year. A free market would accept between eight and nine billion pounds and yield a pay-off at least as high as that which prevails in other farm enterprises. And yet the Canadian Dairy Commission has re-allocated to present producers all of the quotas given up by some 50 thousand farmers who have decided that dairying was not for them—even with the Federal programmes. It is to be hoped that the Dairy Commission will reverse this policy in 1969. The Government also retreated from its position of requiring a minimum production of 50,000 pounds per farm per year to qualify for any subsidies. The figure continues at 12 thousand pounds.

If Canada is going to have a totally managed dairy industry and put vast sums of federal monies into the management of this industry, it would seem perfectly clear that the management must be tough and realistic in the context of moving toward the kind of dairy industry which the Canadian consumer is prepared to support. By tough we mean minimum production levels to qualify for subsidies, very limited transferability of quotas, and an outright prohibition on new entrants. The Canadian Dairy Commission now has, in effect, a contract with every farmer and it would be folly to add to the number of contracts in this industry which is beset by too many farms and too much milk.

It must be remembered that the Canadian dairy industry is one of the most highly protected in Canada, with a virtual prohibition on all imports except a few types of fancy cheeses. The cost of this protection as borne by the consumer alone is over $100 million per year. This plus the direct subsidies of $130 million per year means that the cost to the people of Canada for maintaining this industry is well over one-half of the value of the products produced by the industry.

The mess in the fluid milk industry continues. Almost all provinces (Ontario is an exception) continue retail-price controls to protect archaic and inefficient marketing practices. Nothing could be contrived to more effectively lead to the significant year-by-year decline in per capita milk consumption. In the case of Montreal these controls are aimed at the poor people of Montreal, a city with about one-third of its population at or below poverty line.

It is encouraging that in the recent milk-price hearings the only farm groups that speak for all shippers to the Montreal market opposed the price increase. It is to be expected that these same farmers will soon adopt a position opposed to the use of resale price controls.

WHEAT

WHEAT – The World Wheat Situation and Outlook

There has been a significant increase in the volume of world wheat production during the past five years' period. This has come in response to a very large increase in demand by the importing countries. In the United States wheat production in 1968 is estimated at 1.6 billion bushels; slightly above the previous record of 1.5 billion in 1967. The U.S. carry-over on June 30, 1968, of 537 million bushels compared to 425 million of a year earlier. Current indications are that British farmers might increase their wheat production by 40 million bushels by 1970 which is about the half of Canadian wheat exports to Britain in 1965-66.

In the Common Market (E. E. C.) countries wheat acreage increased by ten percent from 1966-67 to 1967-68. France is the largest wheat producer within the E. E. C. and aspires to become the sole supplier of the other five member-countries. Even though it produces only soft wheat, she is likely to secure a gradually growing share of the market from exporters such as Canada. Producers in Australia planted a record acreage but heavy rains have reduced the prospects for harvest. The eventual crop will depend on forthcoming wheather conditions. The situation is similar in Argentina. We rejoice that India and Pakistan harvested record wheat crops in 1968, 588 million bushels in India and 224 million bushels in Pakistan. This is about 210 million more than the harvest in the previous year. India plans to increase its wheat acreage by three million acres and the per unit yields by 30 percent by 1970-72.

Acreage in the Soviet Union is above the 1967 level, yet growing conditions have not been as good as a year ago. The new economic guidelines in the European Socialist countries, including the Soviet Union are concerned with re-organization of agriculture and indicate increased production of bread grains. Altogether, world wheat production (excluding Mainland China) reached 10,200 million bushels in 1967-68, two percent less than the record crop harvested in the previous year, but ten percent above the 1961-62 to 1965-66 five-year average.

World trade in wheat declined for the second consecutive year in 1967-68 (by 5 percent). Demand in Pakistan and India as well as in Communist countries will probably decrease over the next few years. The trade policy of Mainland China is unpredictable, yet there will likely be a continuing demand for lower-quality bread wheat. Canada might appropriately consider growing varieties suitable for such markets. Also Japan will maintain its wheat import, but the volume of high-quality wheat requirements is likely to decline. Exports to Britain, Western Europe and South Africa may decline as well, although the milling industry in these countries still needs varieties with high gluten content.

Increased supply and diminishing demand has intensified competition on the world market over the past two years. Canada's percentage of the world wheat market was 31 percent during the years from 1949-50 to 1953-54 it dropped to an average of 23.5 percent during the first half of the 1960's and it dropped again to 17.2 percent in 1967-68. On the other hand, the United States' share increased from 37 percent in 1966-67 to 39 percent in 1967-68.

The increase has partly resulted from United States shipments to developing countries in the forms of aid; partly, however, the freer U.S. price policy fostered commercial exports. The United States, Australia and France benefitted from the almost one year *inter-regnum* between the end of the International Wheat Agreement and the new International Grain Arrangement. Both the American and the French offered wheat at prices well below world levels. Another kind of competition exists in the European Economic Community. Protective measures against imports and very substantial subsidies support domestic producers against non-member exporters. French exports increased from 54 million bushels to 169 million bushels, particularly to Asian and South American countries, and under very large export subsidies.

In the wake of the Kennedy Round negotiations, the new International Grains Agreement (I. G. A.) went into effect on July 1, 1968. It seems, however, that wheat-exporting and -importing nations must be often persuaded that the agreed prices will be adhered to. In fact, the IGA could not prevent the decrease in the price of wheat. The trend is greatly the result of American efforts to bring her farm industry into a competitive economic context.

The Canadian Wheat Economy in 1969

Canadian farmers planted 29 million acres of spring wheat in 1968 compared with last year's all-time high of 29.7 million acres. At the end of the crop year on July

31, 1968, Canada has 668 million bushels of wheat, 236 million of it on the farms, the balance in the elevators. The current year's crop might be estimated at 650 million bushels, thus the total supply will be in the neighborhood of 1,300 million bushels.

Canadian domestic consumption of wheat reached 166.5 million bushels in 1968. That marks a significant increase in the use of wheat for feed. In total, 63 million bushels of wheat were fed. The balance went to seed and human consumption.

As mentioned earlier, Canada's share in world exports has declined. Decreased sales to Socialist countries, Japan, the EEC and the United Kingdom accounted for the decline of the export volume from 575 million bushels in 1966-67 to an estimated 336 million in 1967-68. Developing countries purchased only 43 million bushels for a decline of 42 percent from the previous year.

Wheat prices have been on a down trend for more than two years. September-October wheat futures prices in U.S. markets were at their lowest level since 1941. Canadian wheat prices averages Can. $1.94 per bushel for No. 1 Northern, in store at the Lakehead during 1967-68 compared to $2.12 per bushel in 1966-67. The Canadian government guarantees the International Grain Agreement minimum price toward the farmers through the Canadian Wheat Board. This price is approximately $1.95 ½ per bushel for No. 1 Northern, in store at the Lakehead.

The November estimates place the 1968 crop at 650 million bushels. Delay in harvesting has resulted in poorer yields and quality. Much wheat harvested in October is in tough or damp condition.

The United States Secretary of Agriculture announced an export target of 750 million bushels for 1968-69 wheat marketing year. It is the objective of the Canadian Wheat Board to secure 25 percent or more of the world wheat trade.

As far as world market prices are concerned the new U.S. Wheat Programme might help to improve wheat prices both in the United States and on the world market. With prices well below the support level producers make extensive use of the loan programme, and at the end of June 1968 there were three times as much wheat under loan as one year previously. Furthermore, the programme will cut back acreage by 13 percent for 1969-70 and provide cash payments to induce farmers to withdraw additional acreage from wheat production by permitting them to use such and for other commodities. These measures should offset some of the influences coming from France, Australia and probably from other smaller exporting countries.

The Canadian government projects 1968-9 wheat and wheat-flour exports at 450 million bushels in wheat equivalent. This may be slightly on the high side—after all wheat is politics—and should be. We estimate, however, that domestic utilization for feed might reach the 80- to 00-million-bushel level.

The Canadian wheat industry has become so commercialized (and so efficient) that it cannot cope with the erratic fluctuations which it faces in export markets. It is surely time that this exceedingly important sector of the Canadian economy was given some indication in farm policy terms of that importance.

FEED GRAINS

Feedgrains and Oilseeds

Canadian production of oats, barley and corn for grain in 1967-68 will be above that of the previous year. Also, world production of these commodities is slightly larger than in 1966/67. There were excellent feed-grain crops in Western Europe, in Canada and in the United States.

World trade in corn maintained its 1966/67 volume; however, trade in other feed grains decreased, mainly because of unfavourable price relations to corn and sorghum. Canadian oats supplies in 1967-68 were 18 percent less than those of the previous year. Also barley supplies were five percent below that of the previous year, while the crop of grain corn increased by 12 percent. In the United States, based on September 1, 1968 conditions, the 1968 corn crop was estimated at 4.4 million bushels, somewhat less than last year. The soybean crop was estimated at a record 1,080 million bushels. Indicated crops of oats, barley and grain sorghum were at about last year's level. Large supplies of corn and soybeans in the United States are causing lower prices for feed grains. Canadian imports of United States corn increased substantially as a result of its low price. Several times in 1968 U.S. corn prices were below the average loan level of U.S. $1.05 per bushel. The heavy U.S. corn flows to Canada and their price-depressing effect on Canadian corn resulted in certain tariff changes in the fall of 1968. The new variable tariff level is the old minimum of six cents per bushel plus the differential, if any, between U.S. and Canadian corn prices. This has given some support to the market but excessive supplies here have held prices below U.S. support prices. Canadian corn-grain acreage increased for the current harvest year to a record 952 thousand acres, almost twice the acreage of the period 1956-57 to 1960-61. Yields also increased substantially, from 58.7 bushels per acre to 81.7 bushels, during the same period. Realized

lower prices at harvest and the prospect of lower prices for corn and other feed grains will induce a decrease in corn acreage in 1969; however, per-unit yields might further increase, thus the current level of prices seasonally adjusted is projected for 1969.

Demand for barley and oats declined on the world market, while the demand for corn, sorghum, and soybeans was steady. The increasing demand for meat expanded the demand for feed grain in Western Europe, Japan and in the Socialist countries. The world market in these commodities has been dominated by the United States.

Canadian feed-grain exports declined to 45 million bushels in 1967/68. Canadian feedgrains are increasingly non-competitive with U.S. corn. Also, shipment under Canadian Livestock Feed Board Assistance decreased from 94 million bushels in 1966-67 to 83 million bushels in 1967-68. The Feed Grain Programme of the United States Department of Agriculture is likely to result in farmers' attempt to increase per-unit yields in order to offset acreage reduction. Thus, a large supply in feed grains is most likely for 1969 indicating low prices for all commodities in that sector.

Most of the long-term growth in production, consumption and trade in oils and fats has been concentrated in the United States and in developing countries. World supply in 1968 is expected to reach a record level due to the expansion of oilseed supply in the United States and to a lesser extent in the Soviet Union. Canada's interest is concentrated in flaxseed and rapeseed. The 1968 acreage of these commodities amounted to 1.5 and 1.1 million acres respectively. Since world prices of most edible oils declined there was an uncertainty on the oilseeds market. Prices fluctuated widely. In 1967/68 flaxseed prices, at the Lakehead were around $3.45 for No. 1 C.W. Prospects of the current crop are good both in Canada and the United States. Also, Argentina expects a somewhat higher crop than in the previous year. Canadian prices had decreased in the pre-harvest period to $3.30; they will likely remain on this level for the balance of 1968/69 crop year. Prices for 1969 depend upon whether farmers in Canada and the United States will increase their acreage. We look for acreages at the 1968 level or a little higher. Surpluses may develop, and this might lead to prices as low as $3.00 per bushel.

Canada is the world's largest exporter of rapeseed. Yet the strong demand in E. E. C. countries provided incentives to French and Italian farmers to increase rapeseed production. Consequently, Canada lost some of its rapeseed market in the E. E. C. and total exports decreased from 14 million bushels in 1966-67 to 12 million in 1967-68. The carryover is 40 percent larger than last year. Our exports now are concentrated on Japan and Taiwan and demand in these countries will likely increase in the near future. Canadian farmers reduced the acreage substantially but yields increased and are likely to further increase in coming years. Domestic disappearance has increased sharply, an average 2.7 million bushels during the decade 1956 to 1966, to nine and ten million bushels in 1966/67 and 1967/68 respectively. This trend will likely continue, and thus we expect prices could maintain their current level of $2.20 to $2.40 per bushel, in store, Vancouver.

MEAT

Livestock and Meat Situation and Outlook

National policies aiming at higher degrees of self-sufficiency are pursued in most developed countries and in the economies in centrally planned countries. Yet meat imports to those countries are showing a substantial growth. Even the United States, which is the world's largest meat exporter, has increased the volume of meat imports by 16 percent in the first eight months of 1968 compared to the same period in 1967. Imports of all major types of meat were larger. U. S. exports of red meat totaled 62 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in January-August 1968, eight percent less than a year earlier. Canadian meat exports in 1968 are estimated at 119.4 million pounds of chilled carcass, i. e. 15 percent more than in 1967.

Cattle

Since 1966 there is a slight decrease in the number of cattle on farms in all categories. Cattle marketings through public livestock yards and shipped to packing plants in Canada increased by 3.3 percent to 2.1 million head in the first eight months of 1968 compared to the same period in 1967. Marketings were down in the Maritimes by nine percent; by an average four percent each in Saskatchewan and Manitoba; while an increase of ten percent took place in Alberta. All together, there was an increase of 3.9 percent in the West, and a smaller increase in the East. The export trade of dressed beef and veal as well as live cattle increased in 1968; however, it did not reach the peak of 1966. For instance, the exports of beef and veal were approximately 30 million pounds to the end of July 1968, compared with 18 million in 1967 and 46 million in 1966. Cattle feeding expanded in Canada over the past five years, and significant improvement in quality occurred. This is reflected in the growth in the weekly average gradings of Choice and Good grades over the period 1963 throughout 1967/68. The price of Choice steers was on the $28.00 level in 1968 and reflected strength in the face of large supplies. Strong domestic meat demand and the favourable price situation in the United States are responsible. Also, lower weights have offset some of the increase in the number of cattle offered.

There has been some decline of the number of cattle on Canadian farms. The percentage change was two percent from 1967 to 1968. Calves, bulls and beef heifers declined by an average of four percent while dairy heifers

and steers increased by two and one percent respectively. Feeder cattle supply remains large; the 1968 beef-calf crop is estimated to number about 700,000 above 1967. Low feed prices in relation to fed cattle prices encouraged the expansion of cattle feeding both in Canada and the United States. Feed-lot operators in Canada have recently been in a better position than their American counterparts as fed cattle prices were above the prices on American markets. That strengthened the demand for feeder cattle. In summary, strong demand for meat and feeder cattle will, in part, offset the impact of larger supplies, consequently we expect that prices both for feeder cattle and fed cattle will be slightly below their 1968 level, say $1.00 less seasonally adjusted considered, in 1969 than in 1968.

Veal exports to the United States were 115,398 head to the end of August 1968 compared to 76,493 for the same period in 1967. All the live veal export has been produced on the dairy farms of Eastern Canada. Domestic consumption shows no substantial change. Supply in 1969 will likely remain close to 1968 levels indicating continued good prices, provided that the export to the United States is maintained.

Hogs

Hog production has been expanding both in Canada and in the United States. Yet, the trend in 1968 was quite unusual in Canada as production in the first eight months increased by 10.5 percent in the West and only by 4.9 percent in the East. Inability to market cash grains accounted for this. Farrowings were down by four percent in Canada, while U.S. producers increased farrowings and plan further expansion of an estimated four percent, and they may expand more than this. Both volume and price of the 1968 corn crop and feedgrains provide the incentives for expansion.

Hog gradings in Canada increased in the first half of 1968, but a sharp decrease took place during the second half. Also in the United States, commercial hog slaughter rates were down nearly two percent in late 1968. If Canadian farrowing intentions are realized, the autumn 1968 pig crop would be slightly below the 1967 fall crop, while the spring pig crop is likely to show some increase compared to that of 1967.

Gradings in 1969 largely depend upon the spring farrowings, thus marketing might be increased over 1968. There is little reason to doubt that supply in the United States will increase as well. Yet, the magnitude of that increase depends on the spring pig crop. Generally, it is expected that slaughter rates in the United States will likely be up four to five percent and gradings in Canada might increase by two percent.

The market can absorb without much price effect an average three percent supply increase. The well known hog cycle which dominated the market since the end of World War II would suggest that prices would stay at present level. However, relatively low feedgrain prices can affect prices independently of the cycle. Western producers are likely to convert more grain to feed and the current favourable corn-hog ratio might contribute to easing off hog prices. In summary, we project for the year relatively strong hog prices until mid-summer with declining prices in fall as the increased supplies of spring hogs come on the market; the overall average prices will be lower than 1968. Yet it could be a profitable one for hog producers who are able to benefit from the favourable feed price situation.

Sheep and lambs

Both production and marketing of sheep and lambs declined in Canada during the 1960's. While the average number of farms was 1.6 million during the period 1956-60, it declined to 891,000 by 1968. Marketing in the first eight months of 1968 decreased by ten percent compared to the same period in 1967. Marketing to the end of 1968 totaled 165,843 head. Prices were steady to strong reflecting good demand and declining supply. It can be expected that this trend will continue in 1969 indicating prices at higher levels.

Poultry meat and eggs

Canadian farmers responded to 1967's low prices for both chicken broilers and turkeys by adjusting output. The increase of chicken production from 1967 to 1968 was three percent, the lowest since 1962. The output of heavy turkeys declined by eight percent during the first seven months of 1968 compared to the same period in the previous year. Only broiler turkey production increased as the demand outlook for the second half of 1968 promised better prices. This interaction of reduced supply and of strong demand resulted in price improvements in the second half of 1968. For instance, No. 1 broiler chickens at the Toronto market rose from 19 cents per pound in September 1967 to 21.5 cents by August 1968. Also, broiler turkeys increased by two cents per pound from spring 1967 to fall 1968. In the United States, broiler chicken production in 1968 was below that of the previous year. The turkey crop is expected to be 18 percent smaller in 1968 than it was in 1967. The higher broiler/feed price ratio has now led to increased hatchings both of broiler chickens and broiler turkeys, indicating larger supplies for 1969. However, consumption increased markedly because of lower retail prices of poultry meat *vis-à-vis* the steady prices of red meat. The outlook for 1969 is favourable. Prevailing prices might remain and the projected lower feedgrain price enables efficient farmers in the poultry sector to make a profit.

Egg prices declined during the 1967-68 programme year by almost three cents per dozen from the average level of 36.6 cents per dozen in the 1966-67 programme year. Farmers attempted to restrict production and the total annual output increased from 1967 to 1968 only by two percent. This is the result of an increase in the first half and a sharp decline in the second half of 1968. Correspondingly, low egg prices prevailed during the first seven months of 1968. However, prices have advanced and retained strength since. The size of the national laying flock in 1969 is expected to be smaller than in 1968 indicating a smaller supply of eggs. Demand is likely to increase as population increases. These factors suggest higher prices for 1969 particularly for the first half of that year. The outlook is similar for the United States where the prices are somewhat lower than in Canada. This indicates a certain comparative advantage for American egg producers with respect to possible exports to Canada. Canadian egg producers face greater competition from south of our border in the coming year.

THE FAMILY FARM
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE FARMERS OF THE PROVINCE BY THE QUEBEC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

grain-corn contest winners

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The names of the prizewinners in the fourth provincial grain-corn growing contest were announced at a brief ceremony during "Farmers' Week" — a series of study days held at the Saint-Hyacinthe Institute of Agricultural Technology.

The title of "champion grain-corn grower", a cash prize of $150 from the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization, and a trophy given by a private enterprise were won by Mr Henri Brabant of Saint-Polycarpe in Soulange county who grew a crop of grain corn on his farm with the exceptionally high yield of 161.5 bushels to the acre.

Nine other competitors shared awards totalling $600 also provided by the Department, namely (in order of merit): Mr Antoine Asnong of Pike River, (Missisquoi); Mr Gilles Laboné of Saint-Placide (Deux-Montagnes); Mr Roger Raymond of Saint-Herma (Deux-Montagnes); Mr Gilles Bissonnette of Saint-Polycarpe (Soulanges); Mr Réal Fredette of Saint-Thoma d'Aquin (Saint-Hyacinthe); Mr Bernard Blouin of Saint-Barnabé (Saint-Hyacinthe); "la Ferme Napoléon Roy" of Saint-Polycarpe, (Soulanges); Mr Ladislas Bernard of Saint-Pie, (Bagot); and Mr Maurice Desautels of Saint-Pie (Bagot).

Entries are restricted to farmers in areas getting the minimum of 2,500 heat units which are considered necessary for ripening corn for grain. After two preliminary judgings, 46 growers out of an impressive total of 305 entrants qualified for the final.

The contestants' fields of grain corn were judged by two specialists, Mr Jean-Guy Charbonneau and Mr Jean Réal Proulx, on the following basis: choice and preparation of land, fertilization, freedom from weeds, maturity, moisture content, and probable yield.

Mr Nazaire Parent of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization's Economics and Programming Service, who was in charge of the contest, pointed out in an interview that the yields were very satisfactory in comparaison with those of previous years. This year the winners' yields averaged 150.3 bushels to the acre as compared with 136.3 last year, 126.5 in 1966, and 88.3 in 1965. Mr Parent said that the acreage devoted to grain corn in Quebec has also considerably increased, to a present area of some 30,000 acres. This acreage could produce about 2,400,000 bushels under our conditions. The contests do a great deal to stimulate grain-corn production on farms in regions where conditions are suitable for this crop and Mr Parent believes, they keep up a spirit of healthy rivalry among the growers.

Part of the crop from sixteen arpents of grain corn on the farm of Gustave Michon at La Présentation in St. Hyacinthe county.

slow-moving vehicles will carry sign

With the aim of reducing the number of traffic accidents, the Department of Transport and Communications has announced that, starting March 1st 1969, all slow-moving self-propelled vehicles such as farm tractors, agricultural machinery, mobile cranes and scrapers, and also horse-drawn or other vehicles whose normal speed on the road is 25 m.p.h. or less must carry a plate by which they can be recognized from behind.

The order-in-council concerning this new regulation specifies that the emblem chosen to identify slow-moving vehicles is that of the Canadian Standards Association and must conform to standard CSAD198-1967 of the Association. It consists of an orange-yellow fluorescent triangle surrounded by a dark red border and reflecting light at night. The central triangle is equilateral, each of its sides measuring 13 inches. The border is about two inches wide with blunted corners.

The plate must be fixed close to the centre of the rear of the vehicle with its base about three to five feet from the ground. It must be fastened to a rigid, durable and weather-proof surface.

Under normal weather conditions in daytime, the plate must be completely visible at any distance between 600 and 100 feet to the driver of a vehicle approaching from the rear. The same applies at night when the headlights of the approaching vehicle are pointing at it.

In addition to the plate, the vehicles must continue to use the lights, reflectors and other signs and signals required by the highway code.

Quebec is the fourth Canadian province to adopt this symbol, thus meeting the wishes of a number of organizations interested in the problem of road safety, including the Union Catholiques des Cultivateurs and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Figures published by the Department of Transport and Communications show 577 accidents involving farm vehicles on Quebec roads in 1967.

The new warning sign may be obtained from farm machinery dealers.

tractor-driving contest winner

The trophy for the winner in the tractor-driving safety competition was presented to Chriss Ness of Howick, Châteauguay county, at a ceremony in the Ste-Martine school of Agriculture during the annual meeting of the Châteauguay Valley Young Farmers Federation.

The contest was organized jointly by the Departments of Transport and Communications, Agriculture and Colonization, and Education. It was instituted with the aim of encouraging care and safety in handling farm tractors and making young farmers aware of the need for precaution when doing so.

The name of the winner in the contest had already been announced at the Junior Agricultural Merit banquet presided over by Mr Clément Vincent, Minister of Agriculture and Colonization, during the Quebec Provincial Exhibition. Twenty-four finalists in the contest from Quebec's twelve agricultural regions met at the Exhibition.

new corn survives 50°F

A synthetic strain of corn which is well suited to Quebec's climate has been obtained as a result of cross-matings carried out by Dr. R. I. Brawn of Macdonald College.

Dr Brawn has shown that the new strain can germinate and survive during long periods at temperatures below 50°F — the temperature usually considered to be the lowest at which corn will grow. Because of its resistance to cold, this strain is expected to make a valuable contribution to the breeding of a variety that will be well adapted to climatic conditions in Quebec.

Research on corn is also being conducted at Macdonald College by Dr B. E. Baker whose investigations are mainly concerned with the proportions of amino acids in different varieties of corn with special emphasis on lysine, a nutritionally valuable protein constituent.

These research projects are being carried out with the help of grants made to Macdonald College by the Agricultural Research Council of the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

dairy products improvement contest

The Minister of Agriculture and Colonization, Mr Clément Vincent, presented trophies to winners in each section of the provincial dairy products improvement competition at a concluding banquet in Quebec City on Saturday, November 23rd, attended by over 500 guests.

The winners in the different classes were as follows: Fluid milk: Mr Ronald Jacques, Laiterie Moderne, Berthierville; Butter: Mr Gérard Dubé, Granby Agricultural Cooperative; Cheddar cheese: Mr Lionel Lamoureux, Granby Agricultural Cooperative; Cottage cheese: Mr. Jean-Paul Beaudry; Ice cream: Mr Antoine Langlois, J. J. Joubert Dairy Ltd, Montreal; Skim milk powder: Mr Laurent Castonguay, Couture & Fils, La Durantaye.

The trophies were accompanied by cash prizes varying according to the number of entrants in each section and totalling more than $20,000.

The contest, which attracted 305 participants this year, was organized — as it has been for four years now — by the Technologists Association Inc., at the request of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization and with the help of the Dairy Products division.

fed.-prov. agreement in Eastern Townships

An agreement designed to increase the appropriateness of agricultural research and provide advisory personnel with adequate information was made recently between the Department of Agriculture and Colonization's representatives in Quebec's agricultural region five and the directors of the research station of the Canada Department of Agriculture at Lennoxville.

Under the terms of the agreement, provincial agricultural specialists in the region may, on suitable occasions, attend meetings of the federal research station's staff to discuss new research projects.

In addition, Mr Zénon Bergeron, who is in charge of agricultural extension in the Eastern Townships region will spend one day each month at the Lennoxville station. This monthly visit will ensure close contact between the two groups.

Mr. Oliver Larouche of Jonquière who has levelled and drained some of his land with the help of grants from the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization.

drainage research at Macdonald College

Results of research carried out by Professor Robert S. Broughton of Macdonald College show that tile drains will give satisfactory results as regards growth of crops when the distance between the strings of tile is greater than that normally recommended.

The investigation was carried out with a grant to the College from the Quebec Department of Agriculture and in collaboration with the Canada Department of Agriculture. It was conducted on clay soils of the Ste-Rosalie series and on sandy land in Soulanges county. The results were based on the rate at which the water table fell in these two types of soil following saturation.

With tile placed at a maximum depth of 3½ feet in clay land, the soil to a depth of one foot was drained of excess water in less than 13 hours whatever the spacing (from 20 to 120 feet). With tile placed at a maximum depth of 2½ feet the same result was obtained in less than 16 hours.

In view of the need to take farm machinery onto the land at harvest time, closer spacing of tile drains at depths between 2½ and 3½ may, however, be necessary to rid the soil quickly of water resulting from heavy rainfall.

The next stage in this research will involve tests of the effectiveness of widely spaced drains at a greater variety of distances up to 120 feet.

Also in connection with soil drainage, reports from several parts of the world say that red or black muddy deposits have been noticed in some tile drains. In some cases they have blocked drains completely and in others they have sealed the joints between the tiles and prevented moisture from percolating through from the soil.

The deposits appear to be caused by bacteria which oxidize a compound of iron and manganese and pass it into the drainage water. This condition is more likely to be found in poorly drained acid soils. Treatments with copper compounds have been tried as a preventive but their effectiveness lasts for only a few weeks. However, Professor Broughton's research in this connection indicates that satisfactory results may be obtained with treatments containing sodium bisulphite which dissolves the oxides inside the drains. Fiberglass linings or coatings often cause obstructions and should not be used in such soils.

extensive drainage project

The Minister of Agriculture and Colonization has announced that contracts have been awarded for work on watercourses in the municipalities of St-Gilles in Lotbinière and St-Lambert in Lévis county.

This work is part of a project to improve an extensive system of watercourses with a total length of over 100 miles. The territory drained covers an area of 70 square miles including the municipalities of St-Gilles, St-Narcisse and St-Patrice in Lotbinière county, St-Elzéar in Beauce, St-Bernard in Dorchester, and St-Lambert in Lévis.

In view of the scope of the project, the Agricultural Hydraulics division has had to plan the work in five stages. The first stage was completed in September with the improvement of the lower course of the Le Bras river.

Work on the second stage, Mr. Vincent stated, which involves the La Judée river and its tributairies, was started this month by the firm of S. A. F. Construction Inc., of St-Henri, Lévis, under a $39,634 contract. The watercourses involved flow through the municipalities of St-Gilles, Lotbinière, and St-Lambert-de-Lauzon, Lévis county.

Another contract — for $96,986 — has been awarded for drainage works comprising the third step in this big project to Excavation Gréco of St-Apollinaire, Lotbinière. The firm began work this month on drainage works involving the Malbrook river and tributary watercourses traversing St-Lambert-de-Lauzon, in Lévis county and St-Gilles, Lotbinière.

Work on the fourth stage will begin next year. This will involve drainage works on the Bras d'Henri river. Work on the fifth stage, on the upper part of the Le Bras river, will follow.

Stressing the importance of the work carried out or under way in the region, Mr Vincent said the Agricultural Hydraulics division is now engaged in the completion of the eight improvement projects begun in 1967. He added that, last season, the division also launched 21 supplementary projects in this sector: 19 of them have been entrusted to private enterprises; the other two are being carried out by the government.

maple industry display at Royal Winter Fair

This year, the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization's participation in the Toronto Royal Winter Fair took the form of a stand depicting the maple syrup industry in Quebec.

The 50-feet wide stand on the second storey of the west wing of the main building at the exhibition grounds includes a number of tapped maple trees from which the sap is led through pipelines to an evaporator. The display is designed to convey the impression of an actual sugar bush operation.

The part played by the Department of Agriculture and Colonization in maple research and the marketing of maple products is illustrated by slides in the background and, as a final touch of realism, there is a counter where everybody can taste the quality of Quebec's maple products.

The display stresses the importance attached to the maple industry in Quebec and shows how the somewhat primitive methods used in the traditional sugaring camp have gradually been replaced by modern procedures and equipment. It is a symbol of dynamic Quebec constantly renewing itself.

Mr. W. P. Watson, general director of the Exhibition, estimates that more than a quarter of a million people from Canada, the United States, England and even as far away as Australia will have visited the Quebec stand by the time the Exhibition closes, to the considerable benefit of the knowledge and sales of Quebec products in other countries.

temporary halt in sugar refinery

This fall, for the first time in the history of the Quebec Sugar Refinery at Saint-Hilaire, deliveries of sugar beets to the plant had to be halted twice. These temporary suspensions of deliveries became necessary when too many beets piled up in the storage yard.

The manager, Mr Léo Filion, said that deliveries were interrupted on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of October and the 1st and 2nd of November. He believed that this was the first time in the plant's 25 years of operation that the huge storage yard, which can hold at least 110,000 tons of beets, had proved inadequate.

Pointing out that the period during which beets are received at the plant usually lasts until about December 10th, Mr Filion explained that it was expected to end several days early this year owing to the exceptionally mild fall weather. He added that the 1968 crop, previously estimated at 175,000 tons, will probably reach 190,000 to 200,000 tons — an all-time record for Quebec. As regards the quality of the beets this year, he said that their sucrose content was considered satisfactory since it will yield 250 pounds of sugar per ton, as compared with 232 last year.

The refinery has a permanent staff of 94 plus 265 seasonal employees. The Minister of Agriculture and Colonization, Mr Clément Vincent, is its president.

vets to inspect meat and milk

The health service of the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization has finished placing veterinarians in the twelve agricultural regions of Quebec to take charge of meat inspection and the government's programme to improve milk quality.

The new assignments are part of the agricultural department's policy to decentralize its administration, which, amongst other things, calls for freeing veterinarians from certain tasks so that they can devote themselves entirely to the two above-mentioned priority programmes.

Dr Camille Julien, assistant director of agricultural production and development and Dr Albert Lavallée, who is head of the food hygiene service and responsible for inspection of agricultural products, have been holding a series of meetings, covering more than a month, with the regional coordinator, the veterinarian-charge, and the veterinarians responsible for various duties in each of Quebec's agricultural regions.

During these meetings, a list was prepared of the tasks to be carried out, the exact nature of the duties involved, and the veterinarians responsible for their performance. All of the newly appointed officials are now at work.

Lionel Sorel and Albert Gingras made commanders of the Order of Agricultural Merit

Two well-known figures in agricultural circles in Quebec installed as Commanders of the Order of Agricultural Merit at the annual Agricultural and Pioneering Merit banquet on September 4th the Quebec Provincial Exhibition — Mr Lionel Sorel, general president of the Union Catholique des Cultivateurs, and Albert Gingras, general president of the Quebec Coopérative Fédérée.

Mr Sorel was born at St-Michel, Napierville, in 1907 and, following elementary schooling at St-Michel and secondary education at Laprairie, obtained a teaching certificate at the Jacques-Cartier Normal School in 1931. After two years teaching, he settled on a farm adjoining those of his father and brothers at St-Michel in 1933. Married and with eight children, he has always dedicated himself to the advancement of agricultural cooperatives and syndicates. At present he holds the following positions: general president of the UCC Mutual Insurance Company, vice-president of the CFA, member of the board of directors of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, member of the Quebec Economic Advisory Council, member of the advisory committee to the Agricultural Prices Stabilization Board, member of the dairy products export assistance advisory body, member of the Canadian rural development council, president of the Quebec tomato producers board, director of the south bank U.C.C. "caisse d'établissement", mayor of St-Michel for the past four years, prefect of Napierville County, member of the advisory committee on social affairs of the Canadian Catholic congress, and knight of the Order of Saint-Sylvestre. In 1967, Mr Sorel received an honorary doctorate in agriculture from Laval University.

Mr Gingras was born at St-Canut in 1902, the eldest of a family of ten, and went to work on his father's farm as soon as he finished elementary school. In 1925 he married Marie-Jeanne Lauzon who has presented him with two sons and three daughters. Both sons are also farmers at St-Canut. Mr Gingras is general president of the Quebec Coopérative Fédérée, school commissioner, prefect of Deux-Montagnes, founding president of St-Jérôme Cooperative, member of the board of directors of the Coopérative Fédérée. He holds decorations in the Order of Cooperative Merit (fourth degree) and the Order of Diocesan Merit and was awarded a Centenary medal.

contract awarded for land drainage in Lotbiniere county

Following submission of tenders, the Agricultural Hydraulics division of the Quebec Department of Agriculture and Colonization has awarded a $629,675.00 contract to the firm of Bernard Proulx Inc. of Nicolet to carry out improvement works on the course of the Rivière-aux-Ormes in Lotbinière county.

This project to improve 85 miles of watercourse is designed to ensure effective drainage of farmlands in the area drained by the river and its tributaries. It will involve removal of over a million cubic yards of material.

In releasing this information, Mr Léo Paul Provencher, director of the Hydraulics division, said that the work would benefit 220 farmers by improving the drainage of about 22,000 arpents (roughly 18,500 acres) of land. Improved drainage of croplands will prevent much flooding and allow earlier seeding in spring and hence bigger yields.

Mr Provencher also pointed out that the project would permit the enlargement of farms that is essential to agricultural progress in that part of Lotbinière. The river and its tributaries flow through the municipalities of Villeroy and Saint-François and the parishes of Sainte-Philomène-de-Fortierville and Saint-Jacques-de-Parisville.

Mr Provencher added that improvements have been made to the river and its tributaries since 1960, thus making better drainage conditions possible in the municipality of Villeroy. The sections involved will, however, have to be worked over again as the new project is being carried out.

Teddy Mondry wins at Winter Fair

Mr Teddy Mondry of Saint-Basile le Grand won the Canadian flax-growing championship at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair on Tuesday, November 19th.

Mr Mondry, the only Quebecker to win prizes in the cereal-field crops class was awarded the Searle Grain Company Limited trophy, which was presented to him by Mr Stewart A. Dearle, vice-president of the board of directors of the Federal Grain Company Ltd.

A number of other Quebec exhibitors won prizes in the potato division.

Quebec products make their mark in London

At the Royal International Dairy Show held in London from the 21st to 26th of October, four Quebec competitors won the top prizes in the Cheddar cheese contest, class 20, section 2, and three others won the top honours in class 6, the contest for skim-milk powder made by the spray process.

The victor in the cheese contest was the Montreal Milk Producers' Cooperative located at Ville Brossard, winner of the Bledisloe Perpetual Challenge Trophy for the best cheese in the Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom. This cooperative was also awarded the first prize in the Canada section for makers of Canadian cheese.

The second and third prizes in the Cheddar cheese contest were won by the Albanel Syndicat Coopératif and the Saint-Gédéon Syndicat Coopératif, a branch of the Alma agricultural cooperative, both of which are situated in the Lake St. John region.

The gold medal for first place in class six, the skim-milk powder contest open to all countries, was won by the Plessisville, Megantic county branch of the Granby Cooperative. The silver and bronze medals for second and third place in this class were won by the Sainte-Claire, Dorchester county, Coopérative du Sud de Quebec and the Bic, Rimouski county Coopérative du Bas Saint-Laurent.

Women's Institutes

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE QUEBEC WOMEN'S INSTITUTES INC.

ABITIBI EAST: *Val D'Or:* At their September meeting they had as their roll call the name of the place they would most like to visit. Also held a demonstration of oil painting by Mr. Paquet. This was then drawn for by the members with Mrs. Belanger the winner. At the October meeting, they named a food and the vitamins contained in it. Mrs. Valieres gave a demonstration of crochet work. Mrs. Lavoie, the hostess for the December meeting, showed the members how to make Christmas candles.

BROME: *Austin:* were honoured with a visit form the county president and secretary. Their roll call was replied to by singing or repeating and old war song, and also repeating a sentence in French. They also held a card party in December in lieu of their meeting. The proceeds were handed over to the health and welfare convenor for Christmas boxes for shut-ins. *Knowlton's Landing:* made plans for their Christmas party and hope for a speedy recovery of their publicity convenor, Mrs. Claude George. *South Bolton:* exchanged Christmas gifts and made arrangements for Christmas baskets for the sick and shut-ins. They gave a handsome, inscribed tray to their secretary-treasurer, Beatrice Burbank, in appreciotion of her devoted service to the Branch.

CHATEAUGUAY-HUNTINGDON : *Aubrey-Riverfield:* held their annual Card Party with husbands and friends welcome. Heard a talk on the Parent Report, particularly as applied to the elementary school level. Mr. White, Principal of Howick Elementary School, was the speaker, clearning up many misconceptions held by the public. *Dewittville:* members made a detailed tour of the Agriculture Science Department and also the remainder of the Regional School, led by the Agriculture teacher, Mr. W. Keeler. *Dundee:* distributed material and handed in finished garments for the United Service Committee. *Hemmingford:* Mrs. Falcon, President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Barrie Memorial Hospital in Ormstown, spoke of the work of her organization, its many contributions of needed equipment and the assistance given to hospital, staff and patients. *Howick:* the County President, Mrs. Wallace Kerr, gave up-to-date news and also gave members a basic formula for homemade mixes for biscuits, cakes and pancakes. They plan that each member will visit a shut-in with a Christmas gift. *Ormstown:* held and Armistice Day observance with a Salute to the Flag and every member wore a Poppy. They heard a talk on raising and lowering the flag and the correct order in which flags are flown with others. They also heard original poems written by soldiers who had taken part in World Wars 1 and 2.

GASPE: *Douglastown:* had as their "the best way to kill time is to work it to death". They drew names for a Christmas gift exchange and made arrangements to have the school children present when winner of the Cup for the Fair, Miss Mary Walsh, would be presented with it. *Gaspé:* heard a talk on "Ready for Reading", a new method of teaching first graders. Also tips on the growing of bulbs. They are having an exchange of gifts and bringing guests to the Christmas meeting. Each member is also contributing a gift for a patient in the Sanitarium. *Murdochville:* planned a Christmas Party and members are sending toys to the Hospital for the enjoyment of young patients. *Wakeham:* collected for U.N.I.C.E.F. and members are making fancy and Christmas aprons.

GATINEAU: *Aylmer East:* Mr. James Davis gave an interesting talk on Canadian Eskimos at Cape Dorset. This branch celebrated their 43rd Anniversary with Mrs. Fred Routliffe their only remaining Charter Member present. They had on view a scrap book of drawings and some examples of schoolwork and a wonderful display of Parkas made by Indian women. They served tea along with members of the other branches at the Ottawa Winter Fair. *Eardley:* reports on the sale of cookies and tea at the Ottawa Winter Fair and heard a paper on Remembrance and a poem "So swift the way, so short the day". *Kazabazua:* members bought and wore Poppies as their Roll Call. They heard a reading "Memories of an Old Soldier" written by Gen. D. MacArthur and an article on Mrs. Samuel Armstrong who was chosen to visit Ottawa as Silver Cross Mother of the Year. They also held a very successful Rummage Sale. *Wright:* heard readings appropriate for Armistice Day. Their Roll Call was answered by naming a custom from another country.

PAPINEAU: *Lochaber:* held a food and novelty sale and sent a potted plant to Mrs. McLachan an 88 year old member who had broken her hip.

QUEBEC: *Valcartier:* saw coloured slides and heard an account of a trip to South America by Mr. Bernard Monoghan. They open this event to the public. Plans were made for a Card Party and for an exchange of Christmas gifts.

RICHMOND: *Cleveland:* members bought poppies and purchased a wreath for the Cenotaph. The Agriculture Convenor held a Vegetable Quiz. *Denison Mills:* Quilt blocks were handed out and used clothing brought in for Federated Charities. The members heard a paper on "Farmers of the Future". *Gore:* welcomed a new member. A subscription to a magazine was given to a teacher for use in her class. Members will take turns in sending a daily note to a member who has been in hospital for several weeks. Each member will donate a gift for a child under 9 years old for the Christmas party. *Melbourne Ridge:* members bought Poppies and catered to a Legion Banquet and made donations to the Butters Home and the High School Welfare Fund. *Rcihmond Hill:* bought Poppies and a wreath for Cenotaph. Held a Chicken Pie Supper and Dance and had a drawing on a quilt. *Richmond Young Women:* each member answered the Roll Call by bringing a guest. Mrs. Mastine read a paper on Education. *Shipton:* Miss I. Olney, a nurse at C.J.M. Hospital, was the guest speaker. A question and answer period was held on health, also a quiz on the parts of the body. Miss Olney had a display of cancer dressings and gifts which could be made as gifts to cancer patients. Held an auction of kitchen utensils, the proceeds going to the Cancer Society. *Spooner Pond:* bought Poppies and Wreath for the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day. Donated to High School Welfare Fund and bought an ironing board for the Girl's Cottage at the Dixville Home. They also sent a birthday gift to a boy at this Home. The Home Economics Convenor had made aprons which were auctioned at this meeting.

SHERBROOKE: *Ascot:* two poems were read as a tribute for Remembrance Day. The Rev. C. J. Gustafson showed a film based on the story of Donald Morrison, The Megantic Outlaw. The pictures of the Megantic countryside and Mr. Gustafson's interesting narrative vividly recreated this tragic event in local history. Hatley Centre Branch were entertained at this meeting. *Lennoxville:* Mrs. Hugh Wallace gave on interesting and informative talk on Crewel Embroidery, an art possibly dating back to Biblical times. She showed samples of stitches used and had a display of cushions and other completed articles. Gifts were brought in for cancer patients. *Belvidere:* Mrs. H. Wallace spoke on her trip to Lansing, Michigan where she attended the A.C.W.W. Conference. Miss Edna Smith gave the Radio Broadcast with Mrs. Wallace as guest speaker. Christmas gifts for cancer patients were handed in. Thses members knit for Sherbrooke Welfare Society. *Milby:* The $25.00 given for the Cornelia Orr Scholarship for greatest improvement by a Grade X pupil was won by Neil Broadhurst, a grandson of Mrs. Orr. Six members visited East Angus Branch and spent and enjoyable evening. A gift was presented to Mrs. Allen, a member leaving to live in Toronto.

STANSTEAD: *Ayer's Cliff:* has a speaker and film showing the work of the Cancer Society. A box was

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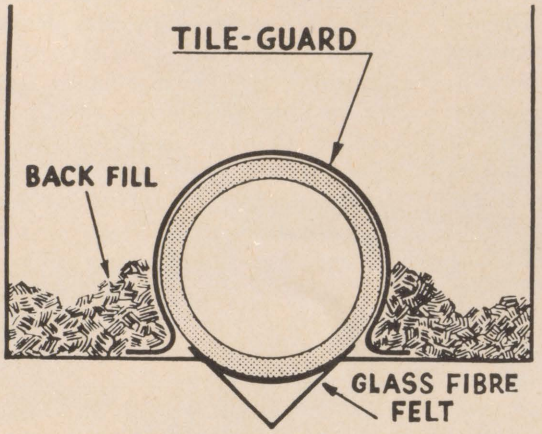

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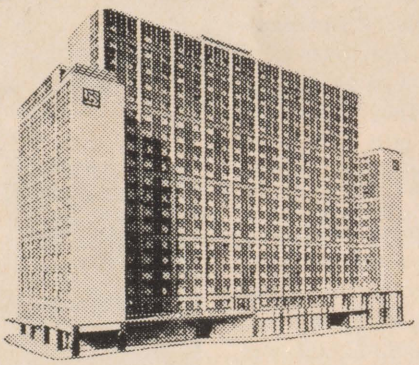

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sent to a needy family and Christmas gifts brought in for Maplemount Home at Cookshire. *Beebe:* Mrs. Ivy Hatch showed slides of local interest and of European countries. Members held a Chinese Auction and served lunch to the Regional School Chairman and Administrators who were on business in the district. *Hatley:* sent a donation of apples to the Dixville Home, also sent gifts to Maplemount Home and local Sunday Schools, Christmas Cards to shut-ins. They also heard ideas for the making of Christmas decorations and are making Scrap Books for the children at the Dixville Home. *Stanstead North:* heard a letter from their English pen friend and members gave Christmas readings and exchanged gifts.

SHEFFORD: *Granby Hill:* answered the Roll Call by naming something they had learned during the past year. They also held a home made Christmas Card contest, the cards being sent to their "forgotten" patient in the Douglas Hospital. They also took part in a Christmas Word Contest and gave a donation to the Montreal Children's Hospital. *Granby West:* made plans to remember Sick and Shut-Ins, Mentally Retarded and Indigent Children at Christmas. *Waterloo-Warden:* told of a Well Remembered Christmas as their Roll Call. Heard articles read on The First Patent issued in 1824: Eskimos Take Crash Course for Doctors; The Legend of the Christmas Tree; The Planting of Christmas Tree. They sang Christmas Carols and exchanged Christmas gifts, donated gifts to be sent to elderly patients in hospital. They also sent Christmas Cards and gifts to a Shut-In member and handed out cookie recipes.

VAUDREUIL: *Harwood:* held their meeting under the convenorship of Mrs. Trevor Smith. Group singing and vocal and piano solos were all much enjoyed. A donation of $25.00 was made to the new Dorion school to aid them in building up a library. A fancy cookie contest was also held, the prize going to Mrs. Poirier.

variety show at Hemmingford

Three of Chateauguay-Huntingdon's Women's Institutes joined forces to present an excellent evening's entertainment on Friday, November 15, at Hemmingford Elementary School. Principal of the school, Mr. R. McKay, was master of ceremonies for the variety program, with Mrs. J. Robertson, president of Hemmingford Women's Institute, welcoming the audience.

To get the program off to a rousing start, there was foot-tapping music played by Mr. Matt McKell on the violin, accompanied by Mrs. Russell Stewart. Mr. and Mrs. W. Craig brought their "Dancing Puppets" and put the little dolls through some fancy routines, to the violin and piano music of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Orr. Appropriately enough, one of the tunes played was Jingle Bells to remind the audience that they came through snow to attend the show. These two acts from the Aubrey-Riverfield W.I. Howick Women's Institute presented a charming trio, Miss Susan Fingland, Miss Linda Gruer and Miss Lynn MacFarlane. The girls sang tunes from the well-loved "Sound of Music" and were accompanied by Mrs. Russell Stewart.

Mr. Bill Guynan, formerly of Howick, now of Hemmingford, recited in Lancashire dialect, the humourous poem "Albert and the Lion". A short skit by Mrs. R. Petch and Mr. R McKay brought shouts of laughter Songs by "Les Girls" — Mrs. C Greer, Mrs. D. Hughes and Mrs. I Merlin, with their own guitar, wide range of songs, old and new, popular and folk, and were greatly enjoyed. An impromptu recitation was given by Sheila Chambers, Christina Gaese, Gisela Schimmelpfeng and Sherilyn Trepanier.

Featured in the program was the One-Act Play, "The Drum". The Quebec Women's Institute have sponsored a drama contest over the past several years, a contest in which Hemmingford W. I. participated last year Mrs. D. Woolley wrote an original script, relating the problems of a women's club in their efforts to sponsor a community band. The play was presented at the annual QWI convention last June, where it won first prize in the drama competition. The production last Friday was the first opportunity for local residents to see the play written, produced and acted by their own friends, and all appreciated the talent and effort the play represented The cast, all members of the Women's Institute, was as follows: The

Sherbrooke W.I. float

The Tombola held each year by the Lennoxville Optimist's Club was opened by a parade with Floats. Sherbrooke County Women's Institute entered a float in the Contest. Each Branch was responsible for a display representing their special projects or work. The Institute won 2nd prize in the contest.

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Hostess: Mrs. J. L'Esperance; Her Teen-age Daughter: Mrs. R. Curry; President of the Club: Mrs. J. Robertson; Mrs. Adamson: Mrs. G. Gnass; Mrs. Bently: Mrs. A. Somerville; Mrs. Corey: Mrs. F. Greer; Mrs. Denison: Mrs. R. Schimmelpfeng; Lady Customs Officer: Mrs. R. Curry.

Stage properties, make-up and "behind the scenes" tasks were performed by other W. I. members, Mrs. G. Gaese, Mrs. E. Keddy, Mrs. L. Simpson and Mrs. R. Petch. The director of the play was Mrs. J. L'Esperance.

"Les Girls" returned to the stage, with the Hemmingford Songsters, and invited the audience to join in a singsong. Many old-time favourties were sung, and all enjoyed being able to participate in the evening's program. The songsters were Mrs. G. Brown, Mrs. F. Greer, Mrs. W. Keddy, Mrs. J. L'Esperance, Mrs. R. McKay, Mrs. C. M. Petch and Mrs. J. Robertson.

Mr. McKay, as master of ceremonies, was a show-stopper with his impersonations of Boris Kalroff, Jimmy Stewart and others, and in telling jokes. He closed the program on a serious note by stating that as principal of the Elementary School, he appreciated the many efforts of the Women's Institute to help the school, its staff and its students, and their projects for the good of the community.

The three W.I. branches who presented the program sincerely thank the many persons who contributed to the success of the evening.

farm wife's position

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada is the only *National* Women's organization that speaks, for rural women, claims the brief presented to the Royal Commission on the status of women in Canada, at the hearing in Ottawa, Oct. 2, 1968. Out of its membership of 62,000 a high percentage is composed of women who work with their husbands in the production of food. For this reason special emphasis was placed on the position of the farm wife.

The brief went on to say that in many instances the wife has to be in the labour force, taking the place of unavailable male farm labour. Here she finds herself without the privilege of remuneration. In addition to the usual household responsibility of the home, the farm wife has to be much more. She is expected to be the bookkeeper of a complex and highly skilled industry; a gardener; chauffeur; to assist with harvesting of crops; drive the farm tractor; and help with many other farm duties because of this lack of farm labour. "And what do farm wives receive in recompense for their role in this multitude of professions?" asks the brief. "Are they paid a wage commensurate with their labours? Is so, are husbands allowed to claim this as legitimate farm expense? Do their husbands get a fair exemption for them? Not at all! Seemingly the farm wife has not the status of a business partner."

The brief enlarged on the three specific topics as indicated by the commission: marriage, divorce and the domicile of married women; women in the labour force; taxation as it pertains to married women. It outlined relevant resolutions that have been submitted from time to time on such topics as Health Certificates prior to marriage; amendment criminal code to make sale and use of contraceptives legal; establishment of family planning centres; legalized abortion under stringent controls; extension of grounds for divorce; and maintenance in case of desertion.

Other recommendations pertained to minimum age of marriage; consent for medical operations—either parent, not just father as in some provinces; ownership of property—law allows husband to barely sustain his wife if he so wishes; increased exemption o income tax ($2,000); exemption fo household help—why should a ma be able to claim exemption for house hold help when there are dependen children where a woman cannot? Pen sion benefits and successsion duties— in the event of a wife dying a ma retains his full pension. If he die first, his widow receives a fractio of her husband's pension. How is woman expected to live on less tha a man?

Other areas of concern were hom economics courses in all high schools retraining programs for older women day care facilities; educational t programs for more isolated areas; an services for the Indian and Eskim women of Canada. Mention was mad in this connection of the extension o the program of the Women's Institut into northern Canada.

The brief concludes by saying: "T speed the day when women will hav reached this desired status, we re ommend that an agency, in an ap propriate department of governmen administered by qualified women, b set up to deal with the problems o particular concern to women, an that the services of an ombudsma (a woman) be provided."

The brief was presented by Mrs J. Philip Matheson, Oyster Bed Bridge P.E.I., FWIC hon. president, an chairman of the FWIC Status o Women Committee. She was accom panied by two other members of he committee; Mrs. George Clarke, S John's Nfld., FWIC President, an Mrs. John E. MacLean, Seaforth Ontario.

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